

anyone who will vote for them. Herbert Hoover's 1928 campaign vowed: "*a chicken in every pot, a car in every backyard to boot*" as a promise to rebuild prosperity in America after the Great Depression. Unfortunately, no human scheme ever really eliminates poverty. Jesus said that the poor will always be with us (John 12:8). History has proven this to be true.

However, Jesus fed five thousand hungry men with five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:16-21). The text tells us that there were twelve baskets full of fragments collected after everyone had eaten. Oh, and by the way, the crowd consisted of five thousand men, *along with women and children* (vs. 21). No, you will not be given a miraculous store of fish and bread if you become a Christian, but you will be a child of God, who knows what you have need of (Matthew 6:8). He has numbered the very hairs of your head (Luke 12:7). Therefore, only God should be begged for your daily bread (Matthew 6:11). If you put your trust in the schemes of men to make your life comfortable and prosperous you will no doubt be disappointed, but if you put your trust in God your needs will be met.

Finally, what can any public official promise that is better than heaven? Our earthly lives are often filled with sorrow rather than joy, and for some, the sadness and want is a life sentence. Presidents come and go, and the poor we still have with us. Our true hope should be in heaven. Paul said that our hope is laid up for us in heaven (Colossians 1:5). Jesus said that His Father's home has many mansions, and all who wish to can go there if they will go through Jesus Christ alone (John 14:1-6). Our citizenship is in heaven where there will be "*no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away*" (Revelation 21:4).

No man can match the Lord's certain promises. Only in God and in Christ will you never be disappointed. Expectation and reality are the same in the Lord, and only in the Lord.



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Unfulfilled Expectations

David Weak

Did your candidate win the election for president last week? If not, then you are coping with disappointment today. If your man won, then you should know by experience that you will likely cope with disappointment when he proves ineffectual. Most presidents eventually fail to live up to their voter's expectations.

It really is a shame that humans put so much trust in men, isn't it? How many times must folks be fooled before they wise up and realize that no human is going to fix all of their woes? Woes are a part of life, and no one can escape them all (Job 14:1; Ecclesiastes 2:23).

The key to contentment is to put one's trust in the Lord alone. God alone is the one who never

disappoints. Jude says that the Lord alone is wise (Jude 1:25). God alone is the one who is powerful enough to save us (1 Corinthians 1:18). He alone could sacrifice the perfect offering for our sins, His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

God alone has the power to answer our prayers. The scriptures tell us to pray to Him, and that our prayers are effective and God hears them if we live righteously (James 5:16). Peter says we ought to cast all our cares upon Him "*for He cares for you*" (1 Peter 5:7).

Along this line of reasoning, only God has the ability to feed and clothe us. Candidates for office are notorious for promising a cornucopia of benefits to

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Things That Hinder Your Reception Of Truth

David Weaks



hink back in time to before everyone started using “streaming television.”

Satellite provided some of the clearest pictures and sound that television ever produced. Unfortunately, when a cloudy day came along, the television sputtered, fizzled, and plain gave out. We contacted the Satellite people the first time this happened in our house, and the technician said: “Oh, that’s just a quirk of satellites. Sometimes even clouds can block their reception of the TV signal from space.”

Good to know! Glad we found out before hurricane season when we might actually need to see weather reports in oh, I don’t know - cloudy weather.

I am reminded of this experience as I think about the many things that conspire to block people’s reception of the word of God. The signal from

the scripture is strong and powerful, but it is held at bay from people’s hearts by the obstacles those people have in their lives.

The love of the world.

John warned us to not love the world or the things in the world (1 John 2:15). Typically, this inordinate love is manifested in the form of materialism. Jesus said that one is not able to love both God and mammon (Matthew 6:24). Men will love either God or money with a greater zeal and devotion. There seems to be no middle ground in the Lord’s mind. It is easy to observe the reality of this in daily life. How many people are crowding churches on Sunday mornings and how people crowd casinos every day of the week? The numbers are very telling of the issue.

Friendship with worldly people. Few things are more destructive to spirituality than making friends with people in the world. For

Christians to be best of friends with the people of the world is contrary to common sense and divine wisdom. This is “unequal” yoking and it will lead one to destruction (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).

God wants us to keep ourselves holy (1 Peter 1:14-15), and friendship with the world makes this much harder. In order to please the Lord, you and I must live lives that are so distinct from the lives of people in the world that they think it strange that we do not run with them in the same excess of riot (1 Peter 4:4).

God wanted Israel to follow this same plan of separation when they entered Canaan, because He feared that Israel would embrace idolatry. They were to drive out the Canaanites and take their land for themselves. In fact, this was such a great concern for God that the Lord commanded Israel to refrain from embracing Canaanites into their families by marriage (Deuteronomy 7:3-4).

Family relations. Hard as it might be to believe, one of the biggest hindrances to people and their reception of the word of God is their family

relations. Some people love mother and father more than God, and some parents love their children more than God (Matthew 10:34-37). In cases like this, the “family religion” is more important than the truth, and those afflicted with this problem will deny the truth of the gospel rather than to upset family harmony. It might be that homes are divided by the question of obedience to God.

Infatuation with preachers more than with the gospel. In the first century, brethren were sometimes divided over their loyalty to the men who preached the gospel. Such was the case in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:1-7). So it is today. When we admire the messengers more than the message we become blind to any truth not delivered by “our man.” When this happens, our judgment becomes so clouded that we cannot see that “our man” is a false teacher. Our infatuation with him convinces us he must always be right, even when he is not.

Do any of these things hinder your reception of the truth?